MARVEL
11
LGY#144
THOMPSON
CARNERO
BONVILLAIN
CAPTAIN MARVEL
BROOKS

Born to a Kree mother and human father, former U.S. Air Force pilot Carol Danvers became a super hero when a Kree device activated her latent powers. Now she's an Avenger and Earth's Mightiest Hero.

CAPTAIN MARVEL

"FALLING STAR"
CONCLUSION

In a desperate bid to convince Captain Marvel to leave Earth and help her rebuild the Kree empire, Minerva engineered a propaganda campaign about Carol's alien heritage that led the Air Force to revoke her military title, and then she unleashed a "hero" to take Captain Marvel's place: Star, a.k.a. Ripley Ryan, the young reporter Carol saved from Nuclear Man. Tethered to Carol's own life force through an alien virus, Star grew stronger daily...as Carol grew weaker.

And that's where Minerva's plan went awry. Star attacked her and went on the offensive. And when Carol tried to stop her by removing the device connecting them — severely wounding herself in the process — she found Star still standing tall.

Because Star has infected all of New York City with Minerva's power-draining virus — and if she can't have Carol's strength, she'll take it from millions of civilians.

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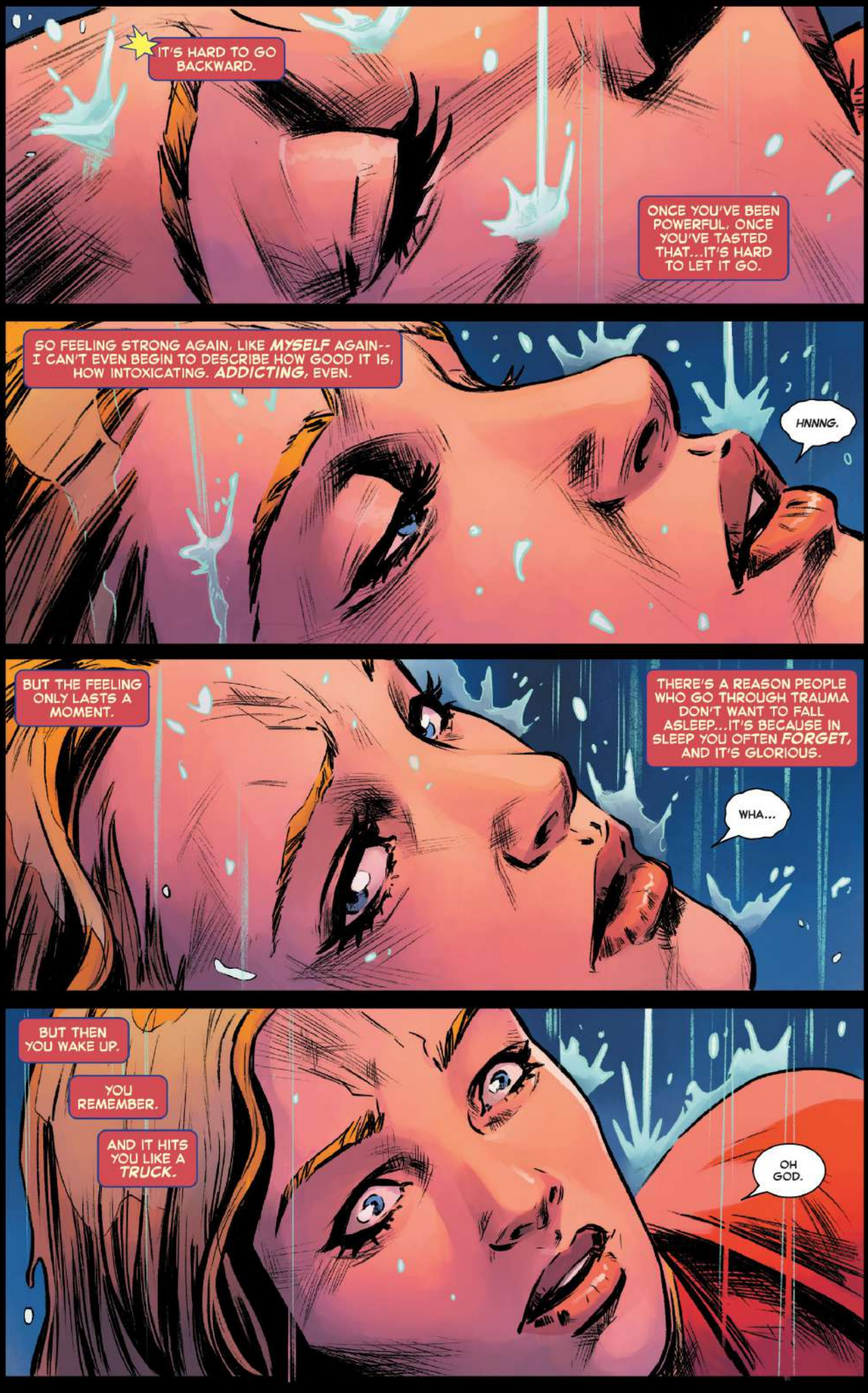
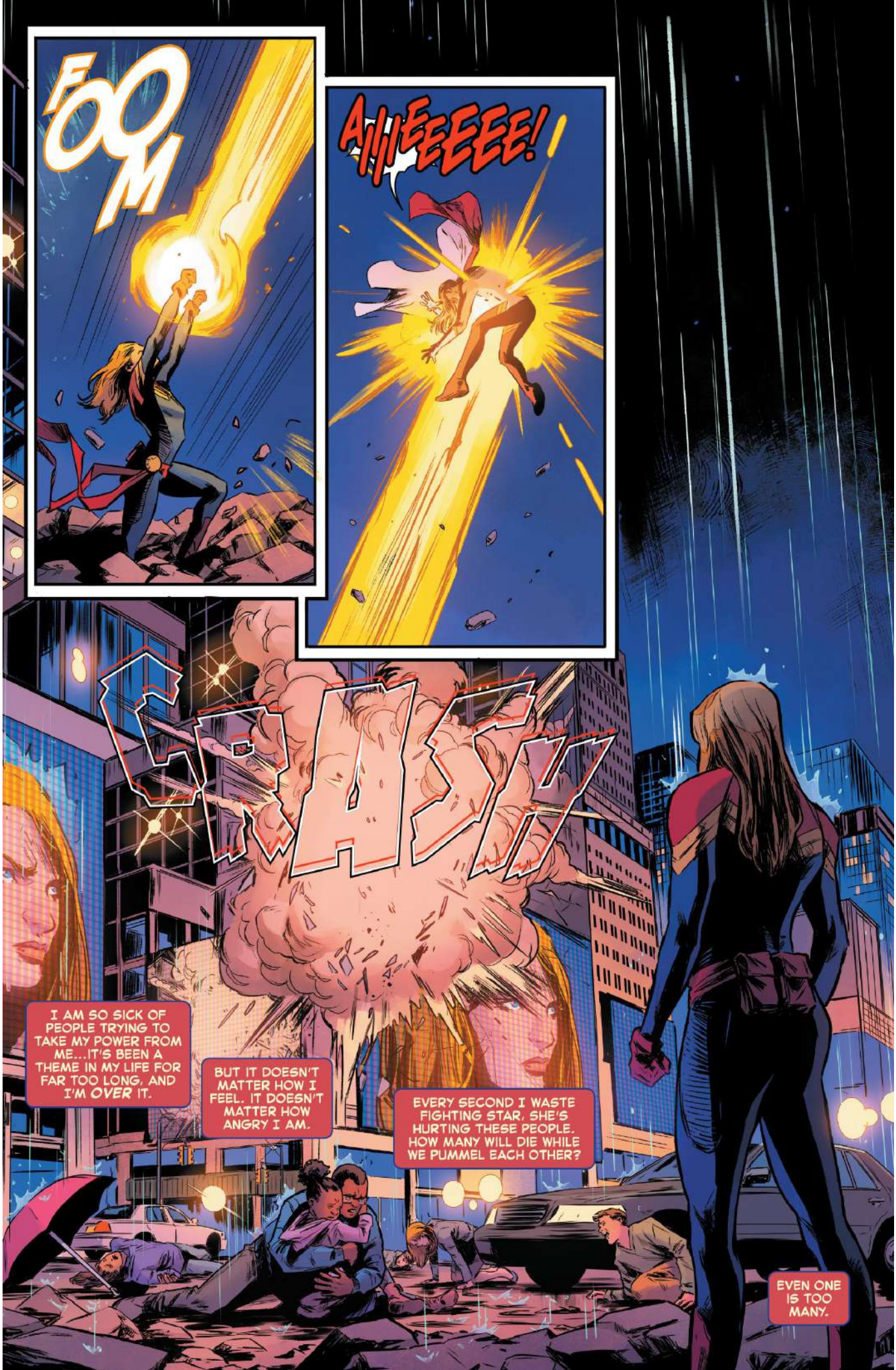
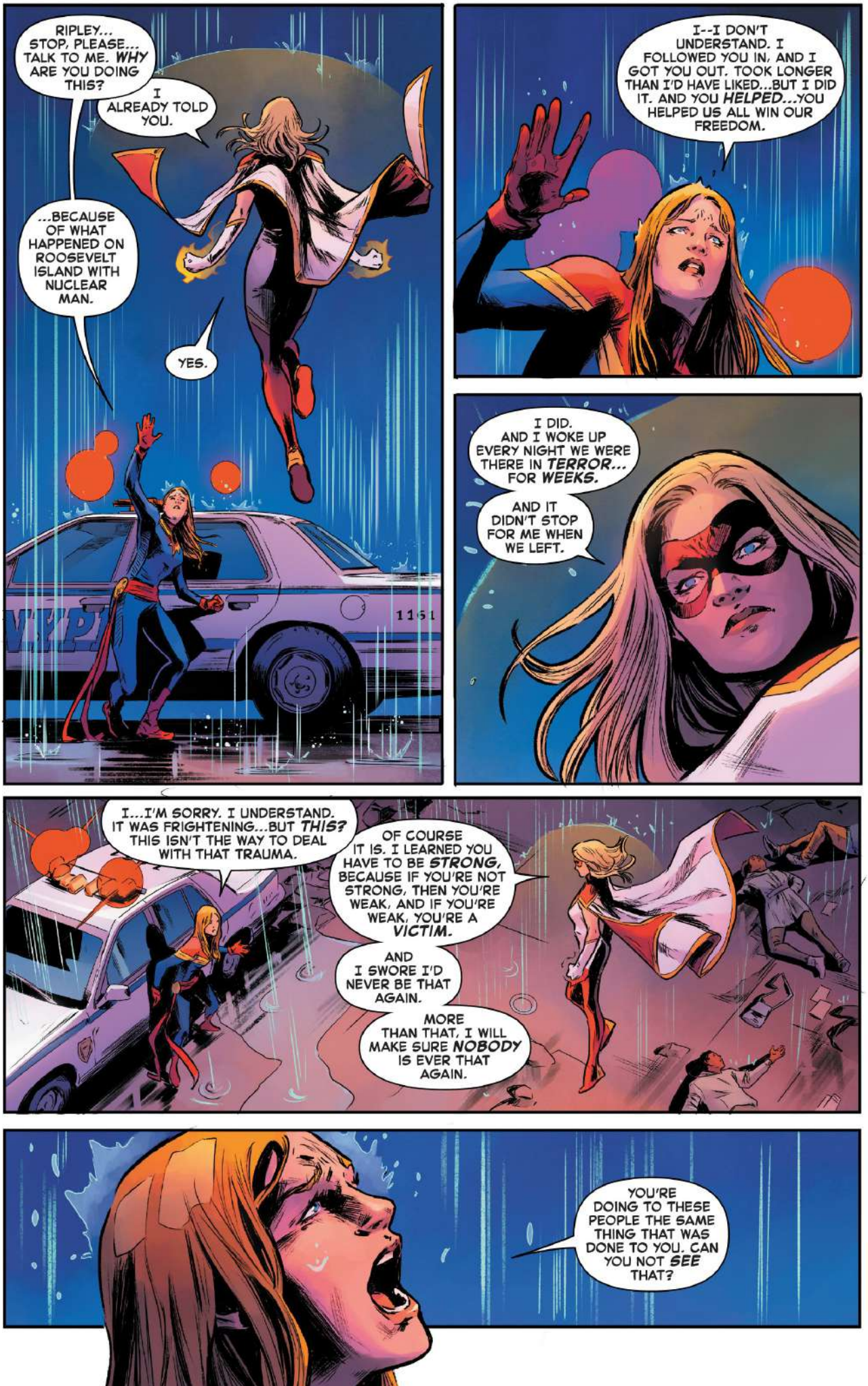

IT'S HARD TO GO BACKWARD.
ONCE YOU'VE BEEN POWERFUL, ONCE YOU'VE TASTED THAT...IT'S HARD TO LET IT GO.
SO FEELING STRONG AGAIN, LIKE MYSELF AGAIN-- I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO DESCRIBE HOW GOOD IT IS, HOW INTOXICATING. ADDICTING, EVEN.
HNNNG.
BUT THE FEELING ONLY LASTS A MOMENT.
THERE'S A REASON PEOPLE WHO GO THROUGH TRAUMA DON'T WANT TO FALL ASLEEP...IT'S BECAUSE IN SLEEP YOU OFTEN FORGET, AND IT'S GLORIOUS.
WHA...
BUT THEN YOU WAKE UP.
YOU REMEMBER.
AND IT HITS YOU LIKE A TRUCK.
OH GOD.

YOU HAVE TO RELIVE THAT TRAUMA ALL OVER AGAIN.
Live
NO...
GROAN
GOTTA GET... HNNG.
POLICE
NYPD
1361
W-WHAT'S HAPPENING?
SOMEONE HELP, PLEASE!
NY 2
Times Square
HNNG
LOOK AT THEM, CAROL. BREATHE IT IN. THESE ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR ACTIONS.
YOU STARTED ALL OF THIS, AND I'M GOING TO BE THE ONE TO END IT!
WANNA BET?
I'M ENDING THIS--ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.


FOOM
AIIIEEEEE!
CRASH
I AM SO SICK OF PEOPLE TRYING TO TAKE MY POWER FROM ME...IT'S BEEN A THEME IN MY LIFE FOR FAR TOO LONG, AND I'M OVER IT.
BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW I FEEL. IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW ANGRY I AM.
EVERY SECOND I WASTE FIGHTING STAR, SHE'S HURTING THESE PEOPLE. HOW MANY WILL DIE WHILE WE PUMMEL EACH OTHER?
EVEN ONE IS TOO MANY.

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO.
THE SIPHON HAS TO GO BACK INSIDE ME.
HNNNNGGG!
IT'S INSTANT. THE POWER LEECHING OFF OF ME, ALL MY WEAKNESS FLOATING TO THE TOP...I'M POSITIVELY SURGING WITH WEAKNESS.
NYP
AND SHE KNOWS IT.
YOU ABSOLUTE FOOL.


RIPLEY... STOP, PLEASE... TALK TO ME. WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
I ALREADY TOLD YOU.
...BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED ON ROOSEVELT ISLAND WITH NUCLEAR MAN.
YES.
I--I DON'T UNDERSTAND. I FOLLOWED YOU IN, AND I GOT YOU OUT. TOOK LONGER THAN I'D HAVE LIKED...BUT I DID IT. AND YOU HELPED...YOU HELPED US ALL WIN OUR FREEDOM.
I DID. AND I WOKE UP EVERY NIGHT WE WERE THERE IN TERROR... FOR WEEKS.
AND IT DIDN'T STOP FOR ME WHEN WE LEFT.
I...I'M SORRY. I UNDERSTAND. IT WAS FRIGHTENING...BUT THIS? THIS ISN'T THE WAY TO DEAL WITH THAT TRAUMA.
OF COURSE IT IS. I LEARNED YOU HAVE TO BE STRONG, BECAUSE IF YOU'RE NOT STRONG, THEN YOU'RE WEAK, AND IF YOU'RE WEAK, YOU'RE A VICTIM.
AND I SWORE I'D NEVER BE THAT AGAIN.
MORE THAN THAT, I WILL MAKE SURE NOBODY IS EVER THAT AGAIN.
YOU'RE DOING TO THESE PEOPLE THE SAME THING THAT WAS DONE TO YOU. CAN YOU NOT SEE THAT?

YOU CREATE NEW VICTIMS EVERY DAY, CAROL. YOU GET IN THE WAY OF THEM HELPING THEMSELVES...THEY CAN NEVER BECOME STRONG, THEY CAN NEVER REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL WITH YOU "SAVING" THEM AT EVERY TURN.
WITH ME TO SHOW THEM THE PATH, THERE WILL BE NO MORE VICTIMS, JUST SURVIVORS.
BOOM
AND THAT PATH DOES NOT INCLUDE YOU, "CAPTAIN MARVEL."
YOU--
--ARE--
--NOT--
--THE ANSWER!
AND YOU NO LONGER BELONG IN THIS WORLD.
FWOOOM
AHHH!

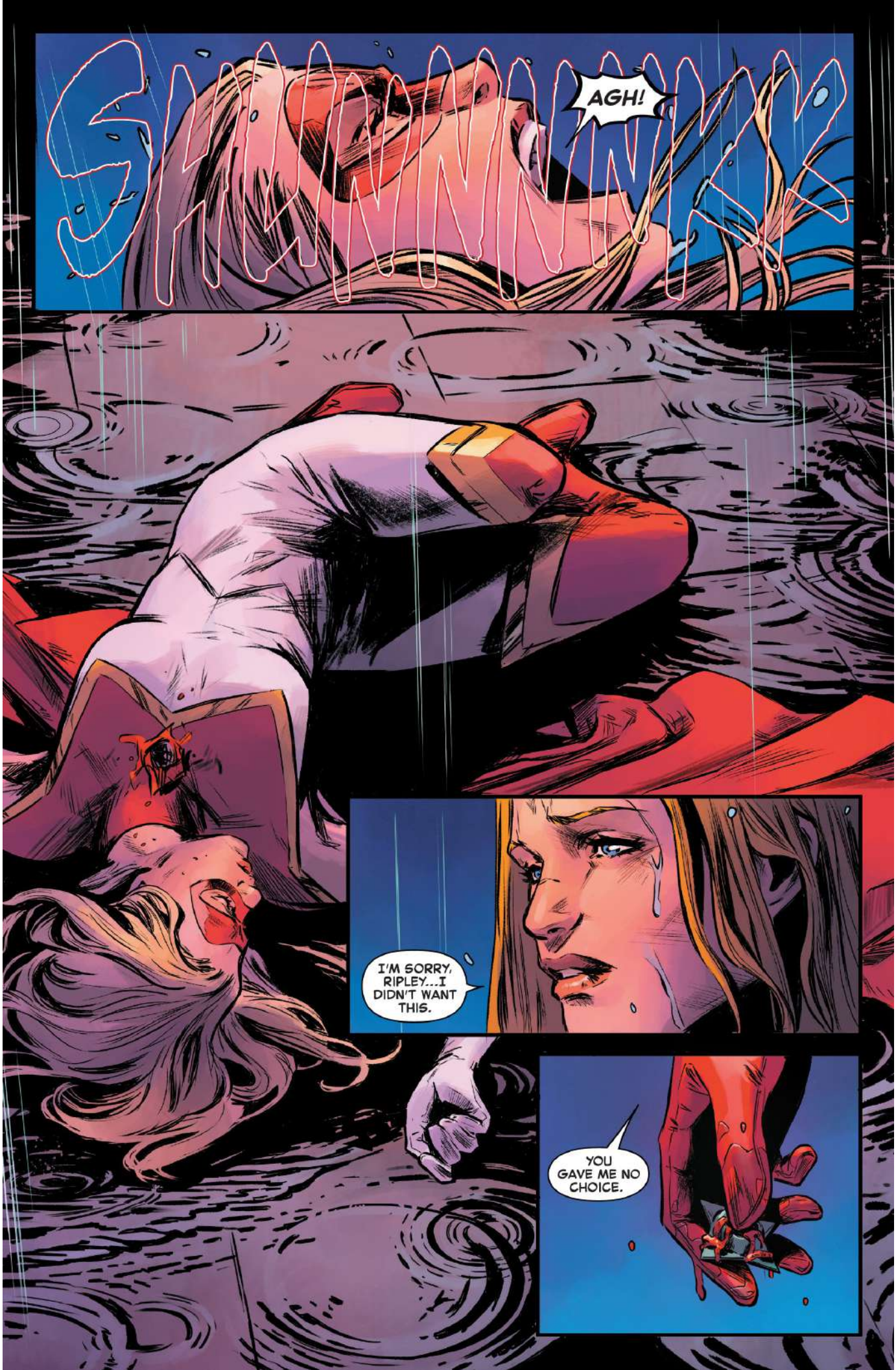
OH MY GOD.
I-- I CAN'T WATCH.
S-SOMEONE DO SOMETHING.
DADDY, IS CAPTAIN MARVEL DYING?
I... I DON'T KNOW, HONEY. C-COVER YOUR EYES.
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR YOU HERE, CAROL. I'VE TAKEN EVERYTHING. THE PEOPLE NO LONGER BELIEVE IN YOU, THE MILITARY DOESN'T TRUST YOU AND NOW YOUR POWER IS MINE TOO.
HEY, &%@#.

WHAT DID YOU CALL M--
BOOM
YOU HEARD ME.

CAROL. C'MON, GET UP.
YOU #HUFFé GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE.
NOT A CHANCE.
JENNIFER, PLEASE--
STOP TRYING TO ARGUE. WE'RE ON OUR OWN HERE...I COULDN'T FIND JESS OR TONY OR RHODEY...THERE'S SOMETHING AVENGER-Y HAPPENING, I THINK.
SO WE GOTTA GET CLEAR BEFORE SHE GETS U--
BAM
TOO LATE.
YOU KNOW WHAT? I NEVER LIKED YOU ANYWAY, HAZMAT.

AND YOU. ENOUGH'S ENOUGH. JUST LET GO. THIS WORLD IS DONE WITH YOU.
RIPLEY, PLEASE--
L-LEAVE HER A-ALONE!
S-STOP HURTING HER!
NY
NAH.
NO!
YOU'RE SO OUT OF OPTIONS YOU'VE GOT CHILDREN TRYING TO DEFEND YOU, CAROL.
GIVE UP.
AAH!

I DON'T GIVE UP. SHE SHOULD HAVE LEARNED THAT BY NOW.
YOU SEE, THERE'S NO WAY OUT, CAROL.
YOU HAVE NO OPTIONS. I EITHER DRAIN YOU, OR I DRAIN THEM.
?!
I THOUGHT OF A THIRD OPTION.

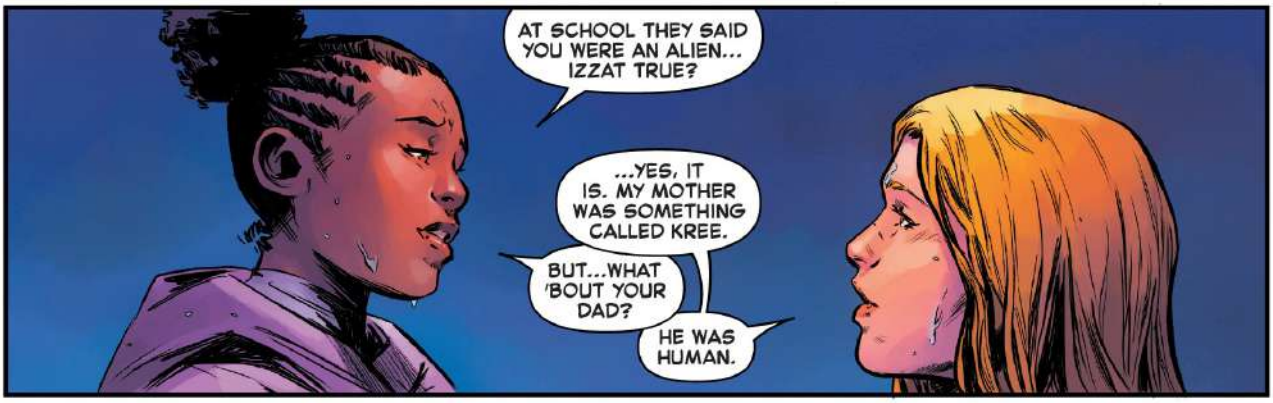

SHRINK
AGH!
I'M SORRY, RIPLEY...I DIDN'T WANT THIS.
YOU GAVE ME NO CHOICE.

YOU OKAY, HONEY?
Y-YEAH. YOU OKAY, CAPTAIN? YOU... YOU HAVE A HOLE WHERE YOUR HEART GOES.
I KNOW, BUT I'LL BE ALL RIGHT. DON'T WORRY.

CRUNCH

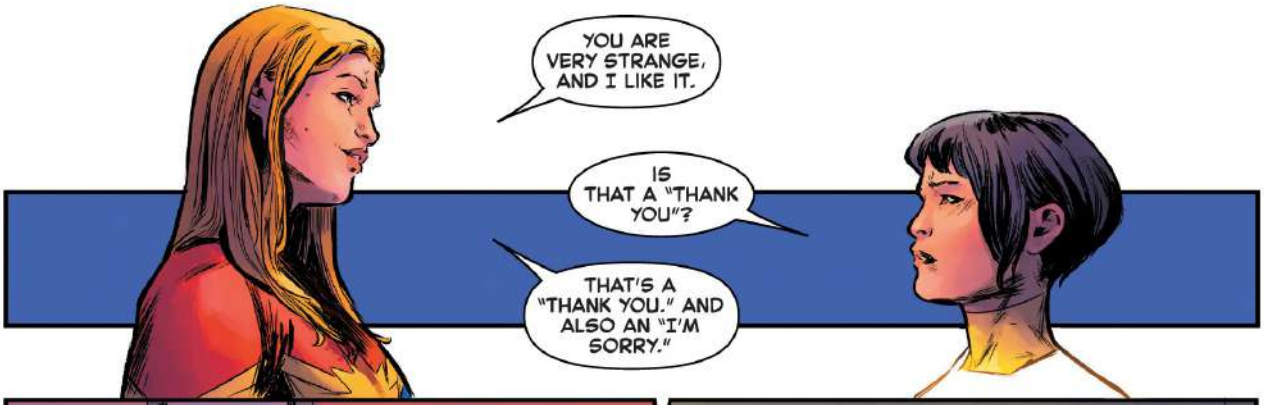
DID THAT FIX IT?
I THINK SO.
THANK YOU FOR HELPING SAVE ME, BUT PROMISE YOU'LL NEVER DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT AGAIN, OKAY?
I CAN'T.

WHY NOT?
'CUZ I WANNA BE A HERO LIKE YOU, AND HEROES DO THE SCARY THINGS, RIGHT?
I... SUPPOSE THEY DO.


AT SCHOOL THEY SAID YOU WERE AN ALIEN... IZZAT TRUE?
...YES, IT IS. MY MOTHER WAS SOMETHING CALLED KREE.
BUT...WHAT 'BOUT YOUR DAD?
HE WAS HUMAN.

SO YOU'RE BOTH, THEN!
YES. YES, I AM. PEOPLE CAN BE LOTS OF THINGS AT THE SAME TIME, I THINK.
YOU SHOULD JUST TELL PEOPLE THAT.
...MAYBE I WILL.

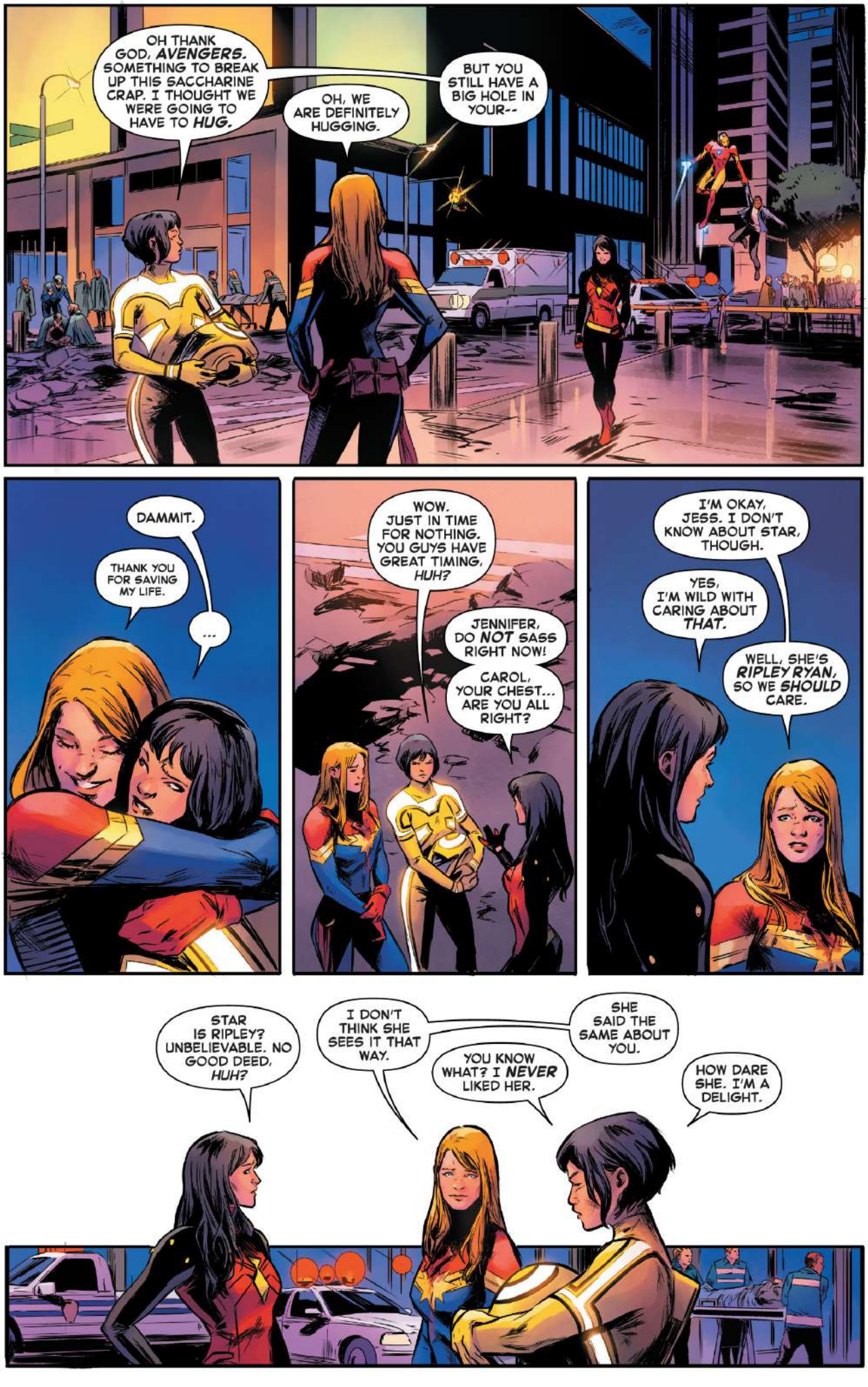
YOU ALL RIGHT, JENNIFER?
YEAH. I GOT HEADACHES STACKED ON TOP OF HEADACHES, BUT I'M GONNA SMILE WHEN IRON MAN BILLS HER FOR A NEW HELMET. THESE THINGS COST, LIKE, FIFTY GRAND.
NYPD


YOU ARE VERY STRANGE, AND I LIKE IT.
IS THAT A "THANK YOU"?
THAT'S A "THANK YOU." AND ALSO AN "I'M SORRY."

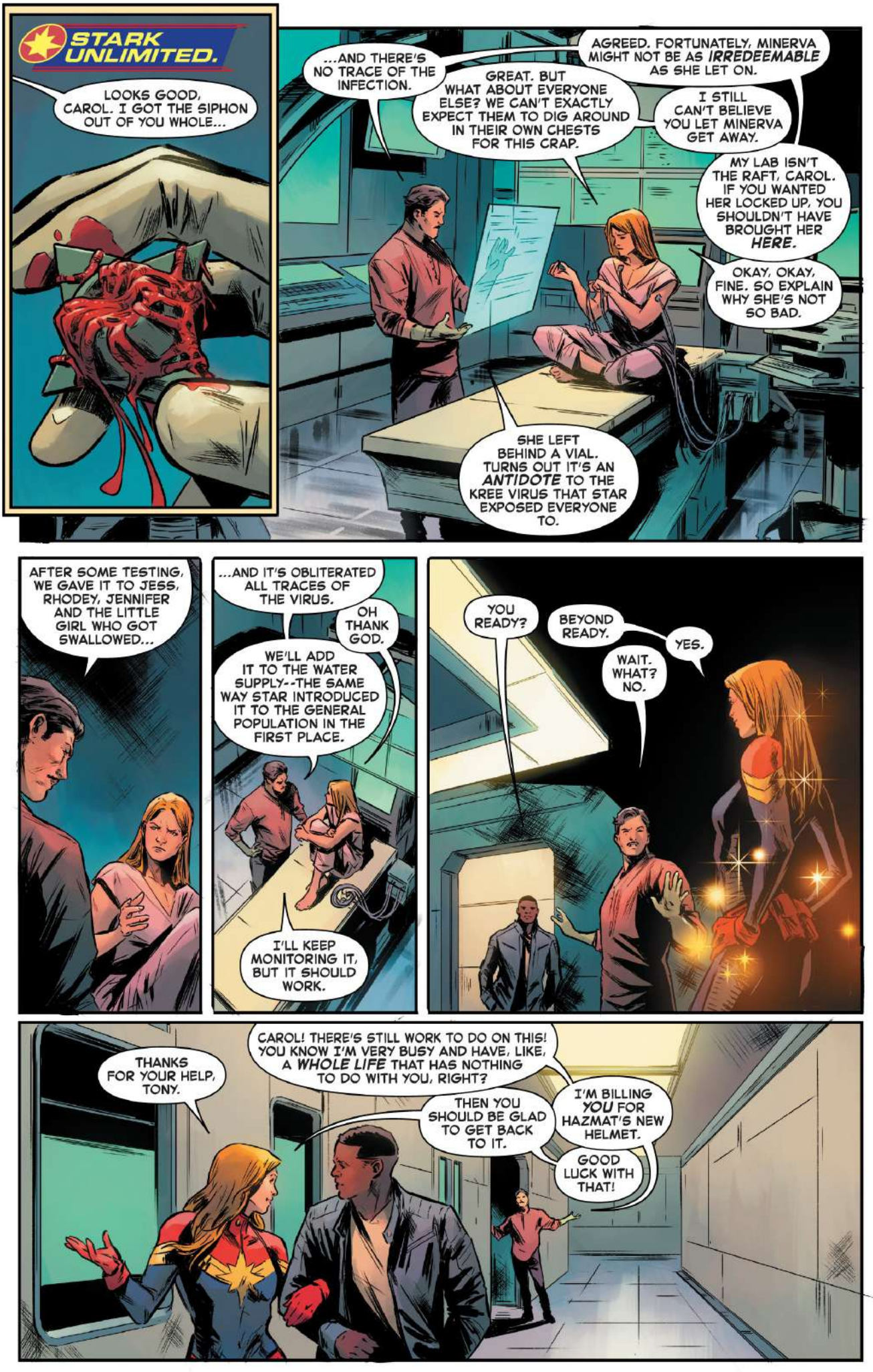
FOR WHAT?
I HAVEN'T BEEN A GREAT MENTOR. I'VE BEEN KIND OF... PREOCCUPIED.

DON'T BE DUMB. YOU'VE HAD, LIKE, THE WORST RUN OF LUCK IN THE HISTORY OF LUCK AND YOU'RE *STILL* THE MOST HEROIC IDIOT I'VE EVER SEEN. WHICH IS RIDICULOUS, BUT ALSO INSPIRING.
UH. THANK YOU?

I DON'T USUALLY LIKE TO SAY THIS TO PEOPLE WHO AREN'T...WELL, *ME*, BUT YOU'RE AMAZING.
AND I'D BE YOUR SIDEKICK ANY DAY.
I THINK I MIGHT BLUSH, JENNIFER.
UGH. PLEASE DON'T.

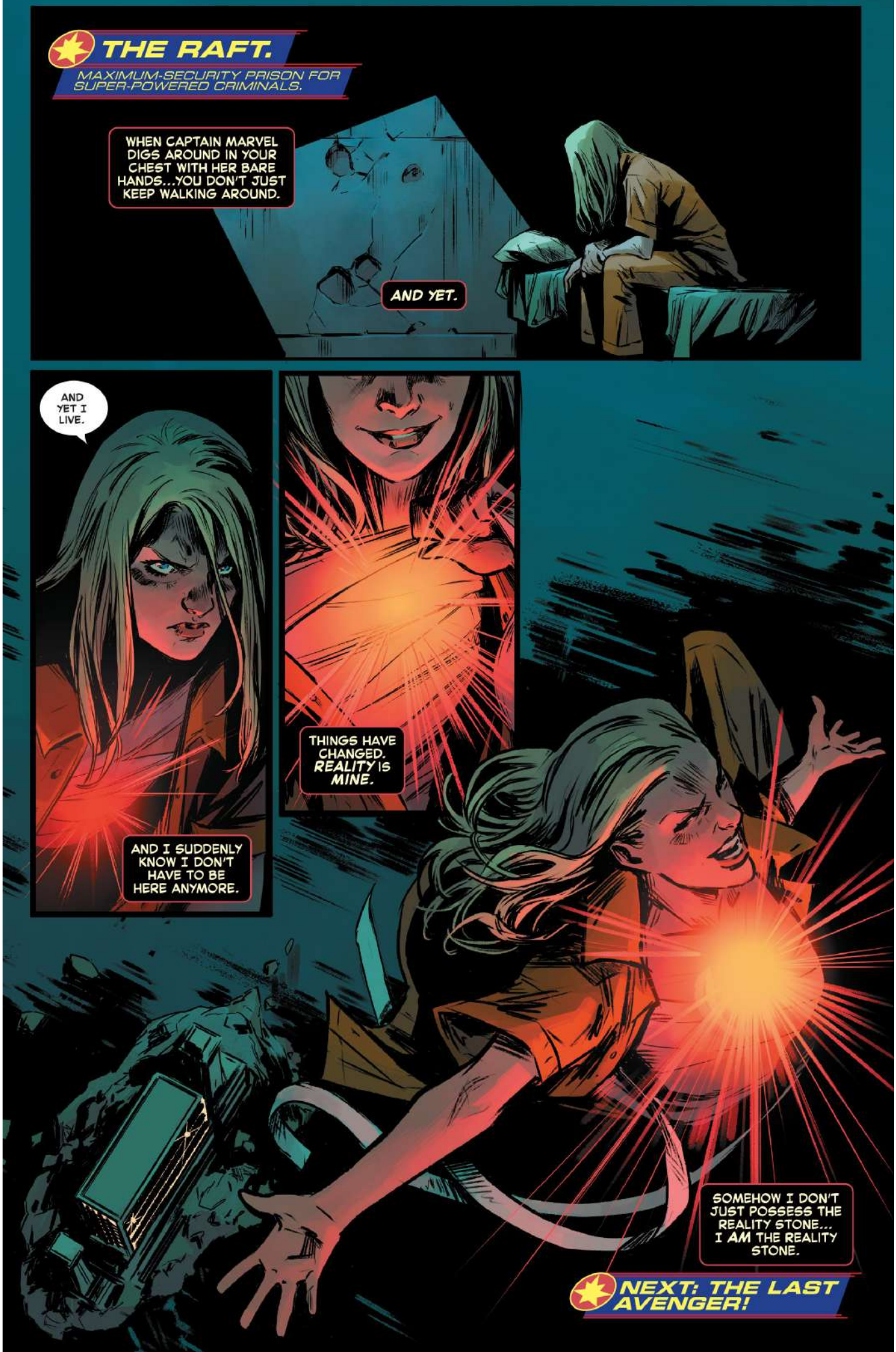

OH THANK GOD, AVENGERS. SOMETHING TO BREAK UP THIS SACCHARINE CRAP. I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO HAVE TO HUG.
OH, WE ARE DEFINITELY HUGGING.
BUT YOU STILL HAVE A BIG HOLE IN YOUR--
DAMMIT.
THANK YOU FOR SAVING MY LIFE.
...
WOW. JUST IN TIME FOR NOTHING. YOU GUYS HAVE GREAT TIMING, HUH?
JENNIFER, DO NOT SASS RIGHT NOW!
CAROL, YOUR CHEST... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M OKAY, JESS. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT STAR, THOUGH.
YES, I'M WILD WITH CARING ABOUT THAT.
WELL, SHE'S RIPLEY RYAN, SO WE SHOULD CARE.
STAR IS RIPLEY? UNBELIEVABLE. NO GOOD DEED, HUH?
I DON'T THINK SHE SEES IT THAT WAY.
SHE SAID THE SAME ABOUT YOU.
YOU KNOW WHAT? I NEVER LIKED HER.
HOW DARE SHE. I'M A DELIGHT.

RHODEY.
YOU REALLY OKAY? BECAUSE YOU STILL DON'T LOOK GREAT.
WHAT? I OBVIOUSLY LOOK AMAZING.
IS SHE ALIVE?
BARELY. WE SHOULD GET YOU BOTH BACK TO THE LAB FOR MEDICAL ATTENTION.
NO. SHE'S GOING TO THE RAFT. SHE CAN GET MEDICAL ATTENTION THERE.
HARD AGREE ON THAT.
DOES SHE BELONG ON THE RAFT? YOU REMOVED THE SIPHON. THAT LEAVES HER WITHOUT POWERS, RIGHT?
I DON'T CARE ABOUT TECHNICALITIES, TONY. SHE JUST TRIED TO KILL ME AND A GOOD PORTION OF NEW YORK CITY. AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED...
...IF SHE'S ALIVE, SHE'S DANGEROUS.


STARK UNLIMITED.
LOOKS GOOD, CAROL. I GOT THE SIPHON OUT OF YOU WHOLE...
...AND THERE'S NO TRACE OF THE INFECTION.
GREAT. BUT WHAT ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE? WE CAN'T EXACTLY EXPECT THEM TO DIG AROUND IN THEIR OWN CHESTS FOR THIS CRAP.
AGREED. FORTUNATELY, MINERVA MIGHT NOT BE AS IRREDEEMABLE AS SHE LET ON.
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOU LET MINERVA GET AWAY.
MY LAB ISN'T THE RAFT, CAROL. IF YOU WANTED HER LOCKED UP, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT HER HERE.
OKAY, OKAY, FINE. SO EXPLAIN WHY SHE'S NOT SO BAD.
SHE LEFT BEHIND A VIAL. TURNS OUT IT'S AN ANTIDOTE TO THE KREE VIRUS THAT STAR EXPOSED EVERYONE TO.
AFTER SOME TESTING, WE GAVE IT TO JESS, RHODEY, JENNIFER AND THE LITTLE GIRL WHO GOT SWALLOWED...
...AND IT'S OBLITERATED ALL TRACES OF THE VIRUS.
OH THANK GOD.
WE'LL ADD IT TO THE WATER SUPPLY--THE SAME WAY STAR INTRODUCED IT TO THE GENERAL POPULATION IN THE FIRST PLACE.
I'LL KEEP MONITORING IT, BUT IT SHOULD WORK.
YOU READY?
BEYOND READY.
YES.
WAIT. WHAT? NO.
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, TONY.
CAROL! THERE'S STILL WORK TO DO ON THIS! YOU KNOW I'M VERY BUSY AND HAVE, LIKE, A WHOLE LIFE THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, RIGHT?
THEN YOU SHOULD BE GLAD TO GET BACK TO IT.
I'M BILLING YOU FOR HAZMAT'S NEW HELMET.
GOOD LUCK WITH THAT!

HARPSWELL, MAINE.
--CONGRESS DISCUSSING REFINEMENT OF POSSIBLY OUTDATED TECHNICALITIES IN REGULATIONS FOR MILITARY OFFICERS IN LIGHT OF THE CAPTAIN MARVEL INCIDENT.
IN FACT, A NEW GALLUP POLL SUGGESTS A STAGGERING 82% OF AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE IN FAVOR OF CAPTAIN MARVEL BEING REINSTATED AS A COLONEL FOLLOWING THE EVENTS IN TIMES SQUARE.
SHE WAS ALWAYS A HERO, MAN. I NEVER THOUGHT THEY WERE TREATING HER RIGHT...WHAT SHE'S DONE FOR THIS COUNTRY...BUT AFTER WHAT HAPPENED IN TIMES SQUARE, HOW CAN ANYONE DOUBT?
SHE ALMOST DIED FOR US... WE ALL SAW IT. THE WHOLE WORLD.
AND YOU DON'T CARE THAT SHE'S KREE?
NAH, MAN. I NEVER CARED 'BOUT THAT. B'SIDES, THAT DOESN'T MAKE HER LESS.
SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF US, FIGHTING FOR US.
SOUNDS LIKE THE TIDE IS TURNING.
MAYBE. BUT THEY WERE SO EASILY MANIPULATED INTO HATING ME...NOW THEY CHANGE THEIR MINDS ON A WHIM. WHAT'S TO STOP THEM FROM CHANGING THEIR MINDS AGAIN?
IT'S GONNA KEEP GETTING BETTER, CAROL. I KNOW IT.
BETTER, HUH?
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.
YEAH. BIT BY BIT.
I ALWAYS AM.

SWFFFFF
FOOM
BETTER.


THE RAFT.
MAXIMUM-SECURITY PRISON FOR SUPER-POWERED CRIMINALS.
WHEN CAPTAIN MARVEL DIGS AROUND IN YOUR CHEST WITH HER BARE HANDS...YOU DON'T JUST KEEP WALKING AROUND.
AND YET.
AND YET I LIVE.
AND I SUDDENLY KNOW I DON'T HAVE TO BE HERE ANYMORE.
THINGS HAVE CHANGED. REALITY IS MINE.
SOMEHOW I DON'T JUST POSSESS THE REALITY STONE... I AM THE REALITY STONE.
NEXT: THE LAST AVENGER!

LETTERS FROM THE WINGS

Write us at **mheroes@marvel.com** to make it into a future letters page.
Mark your notes "OKAY TO PRINT."

Whoa. That was some way to end an arc, huh? But don't worry, Carol Corps--the answers to Star's strange new status quo are coming!

Get pumped for STAR #1, the first of five issues starring the breakout character of 2019! By the time you read this, the first cover will have been revealed at New York Comic Con. And we need YOU to help us get the word out. Tell everyone you know to put STAR on their pull list. She's the villain you're gonna love to hate.

And now, I'll step aside for a minute and let Carmen offer a few final words as she moves on to an exciting new project:

Hey there, Carol Corps!

It's difficult to write this, but, at least for now, these are my last pages on CAPTAIN MARVEL. Back when I was offered this series--to my surprise--I never imagined what it was going to mean for me: becoming a Marvel exclusive artist, launching my first series ever starting with issue #1, and even more, getting to draw one of the most powerful characters in all the Marvel Universe. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the opportunity.

This creative team was created, literally, to put Carol where she belongs: in the pantheon of the greatest amongst the Marvel Heroes. We've worked tirelessly to achieve that, and I can only thank the team (Kelly, Tamra, Clayton, Sarah and Wil) for this unbelievable adventure.

The support we've received since the series was announced at last year's NYCC has been incredible. There isn't a single day when we don't receive love for this series, and I hope I've been able to demonstrate all my love back to you all throughout these 200 pages.

This is not a goodbye, but a "see you again, and soon, I hope."

And never forget: Always. Get. Up.

—Carmen

Don't let Carmen out of your sights! Follow her into the pages of X-CORP, the latest in the wave of genre-redefining X-Men books! Issue #1 is on sale February 2!

And of course, make sure you're back here next month for the debut of artist Lee Garbett! THE LAST AVENGER is going to be a heart-pounding, life-changing ride for Carol. Need proof? Just look at some of Lee's designs for issue #12!

See you in a month, Carol Corps!

—Sarah

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ZONE